

Message Text

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TO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 235333 TOSEC 270584

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM EA - ARTHUR W. HUMMEL JR.

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, PFOR, TW, US

SUBJECT: BRIEFING MEMORANDUM: CONGRESSIONAL HEARING ON
ROC NUCLEAR ACTIVITIES

1. FRED IKLE AND I TESTIFIED IN OPEN SESSION TODAY ON
THE ROC'S NUCLEAR ACTIVITIES BEFORE SENATOR SYMINGTON'S
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ARMS CONTROL. GEORGE BUSH PRECEDED US
IN EXECUTIVE SESSION. SENATORS SYMINGTON AND CASE
WERE PRESENT AT THE OPEN SESSION.

2. BOTH IKLE AND I EMPHASIZED THE US COMMITMENT TO
NON-PROLIFERATION, THE STEPS WE HAD TAKEN TO PREVENT
TAIWAN FROM ACQUIRING A REPROCESSING FACILITY AND RECENT
ROC ASSURANCES THAT IT WOULD NEITHER MANUFACTURE NUCLEAR
WEAPONS NOR ENGAGE IN ACTIVITIES RELATED TO REPROCESSING.
THE SENATORS SEEMED GENERALLY SATISFIED WITH THE STEPS
WE HAVE TAKEN TO DEAL WITH THE ROC PROBLEM, THOUGH THEY
EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT THE GENERAL ISSUE OF NON-PRO-
LIFERATION. AT THE END OF THE HEARING SENATOR CASE HELP-
FULLY COMMENTED "WE'VE RIDDEN THE ROC QUITE HARD ON THIS

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ONE." THE SENATORS DID NOT GET INTO ANY NORMALIZATION

ISSUES.

3. OUR POTENTIAL DIFFICULTIES AT THE HEARING WERE
SUBSTANTIALLY EASED BY A SEPTEMBER 7 DEMARCHE TO THE

ROC WHICH WARNED THAT ANY DEVIATION FROM TAIWAN'S
PREVIOUS ASSURANCES ON NON-PROLIFERATION WOULD JEOPAR-
DIZE CONTINUED NUCLEAR COOPERATION AND OTHER IMPOR-
TANT ASPECTS OF OUR RELATIONSHIP. THE DEMARCHE WAS
PROMPTED BY EVIDENCE OF CONTINUING ROC CLANDESTINE
EFFORTS TO ACQUIRE ASSISTANCE IN DESIGNING AND CON-
STRUCTING A NUCLEAR REPROCESSING FACILITY AND WE
CONFRONTED THE ROC ON THIS ISSUE. IT PRODUCED A
WRITTEN ASSURANCE THAT THE ROC WOULD NOT MANUFACTURE A
NUCLEAR WEAPON OR EXPLOSIVE DEVICE AND WOULD TERMINATE
ALL ACTIVITIES RELATING TO REPROCESSING.

4. WE BELIEVE THESE FARREACHING ASSURANCES REFLECT
SERIOUS ROC CONCERN ABOUT THE FUTURE OF ITS NUCLEAR
ENERGY PROGRAM AND ITS IMAGE IN THE US. SUCH CONCERN
SHOULD DETER THE ROC FROM AGAIN MOVING IN THE DIRECTION
OF A NUCLEAR OPTION FOR SOME TIME TO COME.

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